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Minden Curling Club page 8 Murder mystery dinner page 13 Wetland protection page 14

Water works
Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre was busy this past weekend with the annual Ontario Watercross Racing Association visiting, testing their snowmobiles across open water. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Giddy up for June's mane event

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

While you won't be seeing lassos wrangling steers, this year's Haliburton County Fair is certain to fill any cowpoke's heart with joy.

For Minden Agricultural Society president Cathy Fisher, she remembers when the Minden Agricultural Society held parades as part of the fair. With her parent's campground, they would sponsor a float in the parade covered with campers.

Since moving to the county 40 years ago, she now leads the area's largest agricultural event as their president.

With the cessation of in-person activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, the agricultural society made a huge choice in restructuring and altering the mindset behind the County Fair. Instead of letting too many sponsors pay to advertise and control the fair, the organization chose to embrace local roots as a family oriented celebration of Haliburton's agriculture.

For many that visit the fair, it is their first time meeting animals like horses, cows, and chickens.

There is also a disconnect as society moves away from at-home animal keeping and agricultural dependency. For those visiting from the city, there are no opportunities to meet animals and learn where your food comes from.

Instead of filling the fair with flashy rides, there are horses and other animals for kids and their families to visit up close and personal.

Of course, there will be bouncy castles.

For Fisher, her journey with horses began when she was 16-years-old. Her passion for horse husbandry and companionship has been passed on to her children and grandchildren.

"Horses never judge you," said Fisher.

see FAIR page 12

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Nomination lists growing with upcoming municipal election

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

With nominations for elected municipal positions opening up May 1, many have thrown their name in the ring for various leadership positions.

The nomination period runs until Aug. 20, with nominations certified on Aug. 24. Prior to that date, all candidates are listed as "unofficial" on the individual municipal websites.

Nominations can only be filed in person, by appointment during the nomination period for candidates to run in the 2026 municipal election. It was advised to reach out to the administrative offices for the municipality you reside in.

Along with their completed nomination form, candidates must also submit a second completed form with 25 signatures from individuals eligible to vote in their municipality on the day they signed the endorsement. This does not apply to school board trustee candidates.

Identification must be provided at the time of filing your nomination.

Nomination filing fees of $200 apply for candidates running for mayor, and $100 for deputy mayor, councillors or school board trustees, and must be paid at the time of your appointment.

The nomination packages can be found online via the municipal websites, or, picked up in person from township offices.

Candidates must open a bank account exclusively for their campaign if they accept any contributions of money, or incur any expenses. A maximum donation of $1,200 can be donated to any one candidate.

They do not have to open a campaign bank account if they do not spend any money, and do not receive any contributions of money. If candidates receive contributions of goods or services, but no contributions of money, they do not have to open a campaign bank account.

Candidates cannot use their personal bank account for campaign finances, even if they are planning a very small campaign. All contributions, including contributions they make to themselves, must be deposited into the campaign bank account. All expenses must be paid from the campaign account.

The Municipal Election Act refers to the requirement of a "Campaign Bank Account"; not a business or commercial account.

At the time of press, the following have submitted their nominations for elected positions. These lists will continue to change leading up to the nomination closure at the end of August. Visit your individual township sites for current information.

Unofficial candidate list as of May 25, 2026:

Dysart et al

Mayor:
Greg Bishop
Pat Casey
Deputy Mayor:
Walt McKechnie
Ward 1:
Danny Roberts
Ward 2:
Mike Waller
Ward 4:
Carm Sawyer

Minden Hills

Mayor:
Pam Sayne
Tammy McKelvey
Pat Kitcheman
Deputy Mayor:
Lisa Schell
Councillor at Large:
Ron Nesbitt
Bob Sisson
Councillor Ward 1
Shirley Johannessen
Ivan Ingram
Councillor Ward 2
Stephen Hertel

Algonquin Highlands

Mayor:
Liz Danielsen
Councillor Ward 2:
Lisa Barry

Highlands East

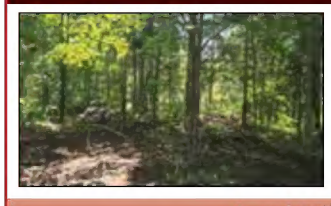
Councillor Ward 2:
Angela Lewis
Councillor Ward 3:
Cecil Ryall
Councillor Ward 4:
Ruth Strong

This list will be updated regularly, with accurate information shared on the municipal websites.

Rocking the relay

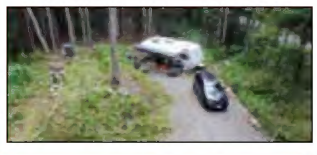
Relay for Life was held through Haliburton Highlands Secondary School on Friday, May 15, and welcomed everyone to participate in the fundraiser for cancer research. With colourful costumes, henna tattoos, and plenty of activities, the young students were successful in their fundraising efforts. /IVY KATZ staff

Vacant Land $119,000



This is a well treed 1.6 ac on County Road. Some cleared to build on. Driveway in. On trails for ATV's and snowmobiling. Great opportunity to build your dream home.

Lot $105,000



Close to Billing Lake boat launch, plowed, driveway in, hydro on property, septic approval, a small shed, surrounded by trees.

Lot $75,000

Quiet, well treed, small lot, driveway in, year round township road, surveyed.

$129,000

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Local athletes honoured through Sports Hall of Fame

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Gathering together for the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame induction on May 23, proved two things: We are a community of doers and dreams, and you never know someone's full story.

On the rainy Saturday, the A.J. LaRue was completely packed. Individuals of all ages and backgrounds came out to celebrate the accomplishments of a number of dedicated athletes from over the years. "All of these individuals have made the highlands a better place through their commitment, hard work, and perseverance," said Roger Trull, the chair of the organization. "The Hall of Fame induction ceremony is our opportunity to thank them and congratulate them on their many accomplishments.

Over the course of the event, five athletes, four builders, and three teams were acknowledged. In addition, there were two recipients for the Outstanding Achievement Award, along with two Rising Stars, celebrated for their dedication to the world of sport.

The Rising Star award was created to recognize young Haliburton County athletes between the ages of 14 and 19. It was developed in 2024, and seeks to identify individuals who are outstanding in their sporting accomplishments.

The Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame came together seven years ago under the leadership of Scotty LaRue, and a group of volunteers who joined forces to create the not-for-profit. The initiative operates under the umbrella of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative.

Currently, the plaques and displays from the Hall of Fame reside in both the Haliburton Arena and the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden.

At this past Saturday's event, multiple teams were recognized, and through them, hundreds were in attendance. Each inductee received a short video clip, outlining their commitments and contributions to the world of sport in the Haliburton Highlands. Many teams wore their jackets from the olden days, making the energy reminiscent of a family reunion.

Trull thanked the management committee, the selection committee, and the number of community partners, including the Haliburton County Development Corporation, the Municipality of Dysart et al, and the Township of Minden Hills. He also recognized support from Curry Motors and Minden Subaru. "To get something started, moving forward, you have to have believers," said Trull.

The following were inducted into the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame this past Saturday:

Athletes

Jonathan Bishop
Wendy Bolt (Gough)
Julia Fedeski
Paul Madden
Chris Petrow

Builders

Bob and Noreen Bishop
Helen Burk
Neil (Beagle) Burk
Jane Symons

Teams

HHSS Football Teams (1978 and 1979)
Minden Rockcliffe Hustlers (1980-1988)

Outstanding Achievement

Lake Boshkung Skiers (1962-1969)
Haliburton County Ladies Softball League (1967-1989)

Rising Stars

Austin Boylan
Addyson Parish

Above, Julia Fedeski was honoured for her contributions to women's hockey in the Haliburton Highlands. The award was presented by her parents.
Below, attendees view the plaques for the Sports Hall of Fame inductees following the ceremony. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

The five Bishop siblings accepted their award on behalf of their parents, Bob and Noreen Bishop, founders of Sir Sam's Ski Hill, and honoured as Builders in the Hall of Fame.

The 1978 and 1979 Haliburton Highlands Secondary School football teams were recognized for their superior seasons.

Parish sets new Kawartha Long Jump record

KAREN GERVAIS

Special to the paper

The Red Hawk Track and Field team competed at the Kawartha Track and Field Championships Thursday, May 14 at Thomas A. Stewart S.S. in Peterborough. The athletes faced cool and sometimes rainy conditions, with some athletes doing their warm-up in their rain gear or winter jackets.

Addyson Parish had a record-breaking day in the Long Jump pits, setting a new Kawartha record in the Senior Girls Long Jump with her leap of 5.27 metres, breaking the record of Hal High alumni Kenndal Marsden whose previous record was 5.12 metres set in 2017. Parish also won the Triple Jump title and ran to a second-place finish in the 100 metre hurdles.

Junior Boy Jadyn Hamilton shone on the track, capturing the Kawartha triple crown taking top spot in the 100 metre, 200 metre and 400 metre.

Novice Girl Quinn Hamilton also ran some fast times, knocking off almost twenty seconds in her 1500 metre time to finish third in 5:23.36, setting a new HHSS school record in this event. Hamilton also finished third in the 800 metre.

Senior Girls Ella Gervais and Grace Allder both qualify for COSSA in the 1500m, finishing 6th and 8th respectively.

Other Kawartha Champions in their events included:

- Alex Lee, Novice Boys Discus (also third in the 1500 metre; fifth in 800 metre)
- Luke Gruppe, Junior Boys Discus (also fifth in Shot Put)
- Lyla Degeer, Novice Girls 300 metre Hurdles (also second in Javelin; seventh in 80 metre Hurdles)
- Annika Gervais, Junior Girls 800 metre (also second in 400 metre; third in 300 metre Hurdles)
- Violet Humphries, Open Girls 2000 metre Steeplechase (also fourth in 1500 metre; seventh in 800 metre)
- The Novice Girls 4x100 metre Relay team of Lyla Degeer, Elyse Kernohan, Quinn Hamilton and Kendall Park

Athletes who showed their depth with multiple top five finishes included:

- Kendall Park (third in Novice Girls 200 metre and 400 metre; fourth in Long Jump)
- Skye Upton (Third in Novice Girls Shot Put and Long Jump and Fouth in Triple Jump)
- Ryder Hudson (Third in Novice Boys Long Jump; Fourth in Triple Jump and seventh in 100 mentre)
- Aren Addison (third in Junior Boys 400 metre, 800 metre and fourth in 1500 metre)
- Ben McMahon (second in Senior Boys Shot Put; third in Discus)
- Maxime Little (fifth in Senior Boys 800 metre and Triple Jump)
- Evan Backus (fourth in Senior Boys Long Jump; third in 200 metre)

Overall, 29 athletes moved on to compete at the COSSA Championships Thursday, May 21 at Thomas A. Stewart again in Peterborough.

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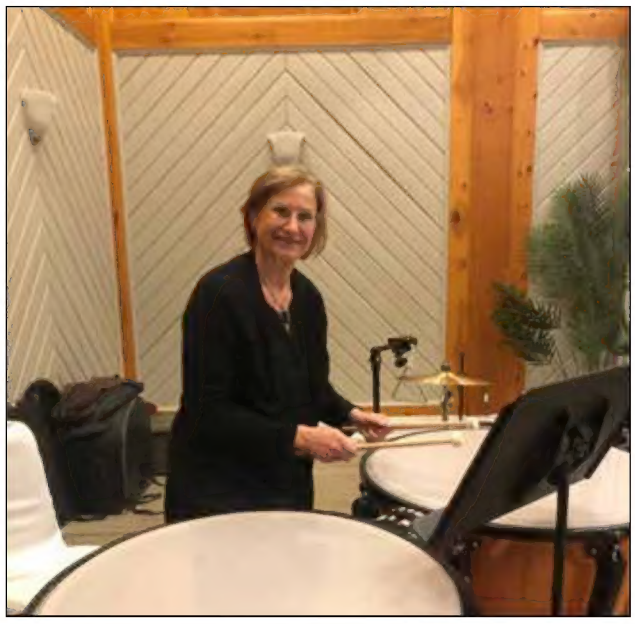

Sights and sounds

The Highlands Chamber Orchestra held their annual spring concert this past Saturday, May 23 at the Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre. With over 40 musicians, many came out to celebrate the sounds of the well-tuned band, and enjoy the pieces they performed. /IVY KATZ staff

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www.mindentimes.ca
2 IGA Road, Box 97
Minden, ON, K0M 2K0
705-286-1288

Published by **White Pine Media Corp**

JENNIFER MCEATHRON, General Manager and Sales
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

EMILY STONEHOUSE, Managing Editor
emily@haliburtonpress.com

THOMAS SMITH, Journalist
thomas@haliburtonpress.com

IVY KATZ
ivy@haliburtonpress.com

KAREN LONDON, Production Co-ordinator
karen@haliburtonpress.com

STACEY POTALIVO, Production

LAURA SMITH, Sales
laura@haliburtonpress.com

PAUL BANELOPOULOS, Sales
paul@haliburtonpress.com

AMANDA GONYEA
Inside Sales
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

CIRCULATION
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

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A voice

Editorial

Emily Stonehouse

I'VE BEEN putting a lot of thought into how we cover these upcoming municipal elections.

It's been a pleasant surprise to see the volume of names that have been thrown into the hat for the various round tables. A notable jump from the past number of acclamations and ambivalency that fogged the minds of many in recent years.

My hope is that all those who have put their names forward are doing so in the name of progress as opposed to anger.

If you come into a position of power with the intention of overruling someone or something that has wronged you, you're doing it for the wrong reasons. It should be sport instead of spite, support instead of sourness.

And a reminder that while those elected become the heads of the table, the neck, limbs, and body still reside to individual township staff. It needs to be a symbiotic, complementary dynamic between all those involved in decision making and governance.

But how do we, as an accountable newspaper that's been covering elections since the late 1800s, make sure we properly incorporate all components of the upcoming decisions? In the past, we've dedicated pages to features, to platforms, to past experiences.

I've already had a number of candidates reach out to me, hoping to use our platform to further their platform. Eye for an eye, step for a step.

But I want to make sure we're doing this properly. The interesting thing about local elections is that we're all colour blind in them. While we may personally know the underlying bias and opinions of those running, they're not flying with a flag in tow. There are no colours or criteria that they are operating under. It's them as individuals; some with years of experience under their belts, and others who have never set foot in a municipal office.

But the hope is that they care. Plain and simple, black and white.

My intention and commitment is to ensure that our newspaper remains neutral and non-partisan. Every individual interested in office will be allocated the same amount of coverage, and will be tasked with the same questions, in the same interview format. Through the consistent platform, my hope is that true colours will float to the surface, and the opportunity for individual thought and decision making will come down to the reader.

In terms of timing, I will likely hold off on profiles until the nomination period for unofficial candidates wraps up on Aug. 21. From there, we will have up until elections in October to feature the nominees who are certified, and be sure that their platforms and priorities are top of mind as we head to the polls.

For the sake of accountability and transparency as a community newspaper, I put this question out to the world: what do you want to see as we feature these candidates? What questions are pressing for not only you, but the greater good of our communities? What is important for us to understand as we look ahead, while honouring how far we've come?

If you have questions you would like answered, send them to emily@haliburtonpress.com, and I can build them into the rotation of our profiles as we head into election time. A community newspaper is meant to be a living, breathing resource that highlights the thoughts, stories, and dreams that come from our little neck of the woods. This is your chance to speak up and have your voice heard. Are you ready?

Values ... conflict, confluence

Pair, Ponder

Poke, Peel

Fay Martin

I NEVER MADE it through Mark Carney's book, *Value(s)* - B.C. Minister Adrian Dix joked on *Power and Politics* recently that reading it was the best three weeks of his life - but I resonate with the ambiguity of the title. The subjective sense of what is important to humans dances clumsily with the objective designation of a dollar figure in the market place. Together the two comprise the Economy, making it one of the most slippery words in the English language. The Economy is the tune to which the subjective and the objective blunder around the dance floor.

Most recently I have been thinking about how that ambiguity operates in the field of public service. We are in the early stages of the run-up to municipal elections and giving thought to the kind of leadership we need in a world in rapid transition and fundamental change. The dance floor is heaving beneath our feet, rockin' and rollin' as one after another global upheaval – over which we individually, even collectively, have zero influence – upends the usual.

We do not value municipal leadership in the objective sense of the word: we pay little and expect much. When we elect a municipal council, we are hiring a board of directors that will run a multi-million dollar business that delivers most of the services that impact most intimately on our lives. Road and bridge construction and maintenance, transportation (or lack thereof), water quality and waste management, recreational facilities, civic planning and enforcement, appropriate and affordable housing, education (through a glass darkly), health facilities (ditto), public safety (ditto).

The dittos, which are delivered through structures that are more or less accountable to the public through elected or mandated bodies that tend to the distant and mysterious (i.e., the glass darkly), eat the bulk of the multi-million dollar budget that is raised exclusively through land taxes.

When I first came to the County and discovered that the right to vote in municipal elections was determined by ownership of a dwelling in the electoral jurisdiction, I thought that rule was a hangover from medieval times, given that it enfranchises ownership rather than citizenship. I can only vote in provincial or federal elections once, regardless of how much land I own or rent, so I wonder why it is different in the municipal realm. The answer, I'm told, is that because the municipality taxes land, not people, the land must have input into decision making. Hmm, that's an interesting pic, land a naked suffragette on a horse demanding the vote.

The enfranchisement of the land also means that someone who owns land in all four townships can vote four times. It means that the vote of a seasonal resident, who engages in local life quite differently than year-round residents, and whose values (there's that word again) vis a vis local reality are legitimately different, has equal say in selecting who runs the County. In fact, given that less than half the homes (46 per cent by 2021 census) in the County are 'usual' aka primary residences, seasonal voters may have priority in determining municipal governance.

The enfranchisement of the land, I learned, is not a historic hangover but a gift from the Harris government of the 1990s. I can see it being innocuous then, because a seasonal resident would have to care enough about municipal politics to get in his car and drive to the cottage to cast a vote. A political pandering with small impact – until on-line voting became the thing.

While fact-checking, I came across an excellent 135-page report done by Watson and Associates Economists for Haliburton County, delivered in 2025. It is entitled *Growth Analysis Phase 1*, the foundation for a subsequent *Development Charges Background Study*. Together they evaluate (there's that word again) the factors that must be taken into account to plan for and deliver the County-wide infrastructure necessary for a successful social and economic future.

This is the kind of work that our municipal government is elected to do. Councillors must determine what is needed to ensure that the physical and social infrastructure within their mandate is what the population needs at present and into the future, and how to pay for it with revenue that is tightly constrained.

If the County were a for-profit corporation, the CEO and the Chair of the Board and the Directors would all be paid handsomely and expected to contribute generously to the success of the company. Because it is a not-for-profit corporation, there is much more attention to Conflict of Interest than there is to Confluence of Interest, which is how corporate directors are chosen. Because its shareholders are the public, and its mandate is their overall well-being, it is heavily regulated from without and vigilantly monitored from within.

It's a crap job with crap pay, but we need the best and the brightest at the table working together (confluently) for the good of us all.

points of view

A failure to communicate

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

A WHILE AGO, I picked up my cell phone and dialed a phone number I was given. As is more and more the case these days, no one answered. Instead, I was bounced to voice mail and told to leave a message, so that person could get back to me promptly.

The key word here is promptly.

I have come to believe that what "promptly" actually means these days is "I will get back to you in a number of days that is commensurate with how important you are to me or how difficult your question is to answer."

Typically, people get back to me within two weeks – but only if my message is time sensitive.

In this case it was not, so I expect to have my message answered before the onset of winter, after I have forgotten why I asked it.

Of course this is probably my own fault.

Jenn pointed out that most people use text messaging or social media to communicate with each other these days. Apparently, this is the preferred means of communication for young people.

And that's fine, but I have always been of the opinion that, with any skill, there is a "if you don't use it, you'll lose it" component.

I guess what I am saying is that within two or three generations, if this keeps up, no one will be able to use the phone.

You laugh now but mark my words. There is a certain skill to using a cell phone.

Listen to any two old guys speak and you'll see what I mean.

You'll hear them expertly communicate with practiced sentences like, "Can you hear me now?!" and "Hello! Hello! Are you still there?"

Or, at the more advanced levels, you'll gleam important technical hints like, "Sorry, I hit the mute button."

Right now, the legion of younger readers of this column are probably saying, "There's no way I could ever forget to use my phone. I carry it every day."

Well, that's the same thing that people of my generation said about the telegram, smoke signals, semaphore flags, yelling in an ear horn, or writing a proper Civil War-style letter.

Believe me, it can happen.

If you don't answer the phone more often, one day you are going to get an important phone call and forget how to answer it. That generally occurs when you reach your late-50s.

I know, I sound like a dinosaur right now, but wait until you get older and all the young kids don't want to answer your texts or Snapchats or Facetime videos because their new preferred method of communication is the MS Mind Meld App – an app you find annoying to use because of the autocorrect feature.

Then you'll be sorry.

The point I am trying to make here is that there is nothing wrong with using the telephone part of your cell phone too. It still works and it'll give your thumbs a much-needed break.

Better still you will actually get a more personal connection in that you'll be able to hear the inflection in another human's voice and get a sense of the urgency or passion behind the words being uttered.

Trust me. Nothing can take the place of heartfelt sentences like "Can you hear me now?!" or "Hello! Hello! Are you still there?"

pic *of the* **past**

Out enjoying a beautiful day: Carl Hussey (on roof lying down), Bernie (Kellett) Hussey, Bryce Hussey. In rumble seat: Vi Kellett. This photo was taken in 1937 and submitted by Wayne Hussey.

My Pop Choir and friends

Tales from the great

Green meadow

Lynda Shadbolt

ON TUESDAY evenings, something beautiful happens when forty-nine women gather together to sing in My Pop Choir. No matter how tired, distracted, or emotionally depleted I may feel when I walk through the door, within minutes I am laughing, stretching, breathing deeply, and becoming fully present. Choir has become far more than simply singing songs. It has become an important way that I care for myself.

As I have said before, I am a caregiver and it is very meaningful, but it can also be exhausting. There are some days that feel heavy with responsibility and worry; days when energy runs low and emotions sit close to the surface. I have learned that in order to continue being a caregiver with compassion, I must also find ways to nourish my own spirit. For me, choir has become one of those precious places of renewal.

We begin each rehearsal with playful warm-ups that immediately shift the energy in the room. There is something wonderfully freeing about making beautiful sounds, stretching our bodies, and laughing together. It becomes impossible to stay grumpy or withdrawn for very long. Music gently pulls us into connection with one another and with ourselves.

I have also discovered how important it is to keep learning new things. I have read that when people are tired, depleted, or stressed, learning something new can help awaken the mind and lift the spirit. Choir does exactly that for me. I am learning how to sing in harmony, how to listen more carefully, and how to blend my voice with others. I am learning new songs, new rhythms, and new ways of hearing music.

One of my favourite moments during rehearsal is when I stop singing for just a second and simply listen. The altos often sound like a deep, calming cello, grounding the music with warmth and steadiness. Then the sopranos rise above us, bringing brightness and light that seems to lift the whole room. I sing in the middle section, nestled between those beautiful sounds, surrounded by harmonies that are both powerful and tender. Together, the three sections create something none of us could create alone.

There is also something deeply comforting about being part of a community of women who come together each week simply for the joy of singing. We encourage one another, laugh together, and share a sense of belonging that feels increasingly precious in today's busy world. Every week, this group lifts me up.

We are now preparing for our upcoming concert on Friday, June 12 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion at 7:30 p.m. We will be singing twelve songs, joined by a couple of guest artists, and it promises to be a delightful and uplifting evening.

Our choir director, Jocelyn Regina, grew up in Haliburton before leaving to attend school and travel. She and her husband returned to the area two years ago with their children, and our community is so fortunate that she has chosen to pour her talent, creativity, and joyful energy back into this place she calls home.

Tickets for the concert can be purchased through Eventbrite. It will be an evening filled with harmony, laughter, and connection - the very things that help sustain us all. If you need help getting a ticket feel free to contact me, and I will help you: haliburtonyoga@gmail.com or call me at 705-854-0196.

Curling costs

From left, Minden Hills Councillor Tammy McKelvey, Minden Hills Councillor Ivan Ingram, MPP Laurie Scott, Minden Curling Club President Dwight Thomas, Curling Club volunteer Tracy Gualberto, and Minden Hills Mayor Bob Carter were all smiles receiving a $180,000 Ontario Trillium Grant at a recognition event held at the curling club on May 23. The money received will be put towards their ongoing repairs to their insulation. /Thomas Smith staff

letters to the editor

Thank you to community

To the Editor,

On behalf of the Minden Health Care Auxiliary, we would like to thank all who came out to support us at our "End of Season Sale"!

We had two very successful sale days thanks to everyone who came in, got some terrific deals and also added items from our spring line to their wardrobe.

We are very appreciative of all your support and remind you we are open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, noon to 3 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Keep an eye out for us around town at various locations: Tag Day July 10th!

All our proceeds go to help fund local Health Care.

Thanks again for your ongoing support.

Cecille Gibbons,
Minden

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.

Teacher troubles

To the Editor,

In response to Jack's POV, May 12

I am writing to express my point of view on the article written by Jack Brezina power to the teachers. First, there are no CEOs appointed to run school boards. Since teaching has become a union job and not the professional career in its past life, teachers abide by the union, not their duty to their students. Report cards and testing abandoned leading to English and mathematics being below standard per student. Usually former public servants having been elected or appointed are chosen to step in the position of the elected school board primarily because they could not keep a balanced operating budget. All public governing bodies under Provincial control must have a balanced operating budget.

Further examples of teacher union antics are TV ads proposing lowering classroom pupil sizes. In most boards student enrolments are falling. The Toronto District School Board just announced layoffs because of this decline in student numbers. Thus the union is not about making the system better for students but saving their jobs.

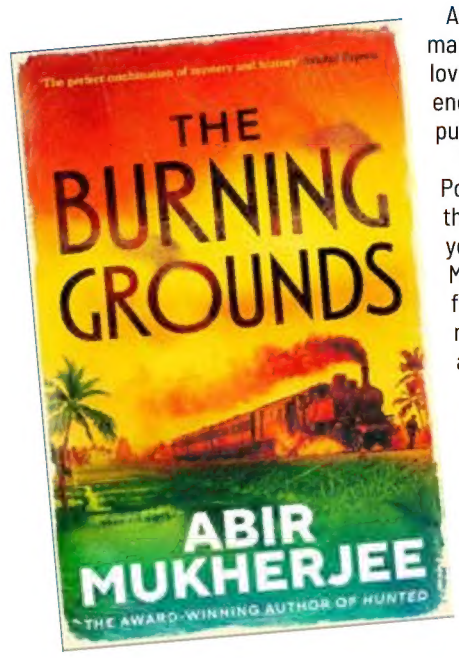
Patrick Berne,
Haliburton

Minden Memories

1930s bathing costumes. On the back of the photograph, it reads: "Swimmers in Gull Lake, with Ormiston Hoidge (Grace's father) in the foreground beside the boathouse. Mr. Adamson is paddling youth, circa 1930." /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week



At a sacred cremation site in Calcutta, a man is found murdered. The victim, a well-loved patron of the arts, seemed to have no enemies - making the crime all the more puzzling.

Though out of favour with the Imperial Police, Detective Wyndham is pulled into the case, leading him into the glamorous yet dangerous world of Indian cinema. Meanwhile, Banerjee, newly returned from years in Europe, searches for a missing photographer whose disappearance soon links to the murder.

As their paths converge, Wyndham and Banerjee must put aside old tensions to uncover the truth behind a case where nothing is as it seems.

The Burning Grounds by Abir Mukherjee is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to place a hold or learn more.

Haliburton Forest's sustainability secrets for biodiversity

IVY KATZ

Journalist

Part one of a two-part series

Haliburton Forest (HF) is not just a sprawling 100,000 acres, it is recognized within North America for pioneering a world-class sustainability model. Transformed from a depleted forest by the Schleifenbaum family into a biodiverse ecosystem success in less than 50 years, Haliburton Forest received the inaugural Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for private lands award in the late 1990s. Today, the Forest continues to test their model of sustainability, while studying ways to combat the various diseases that affect trees in this area. The most abundant species include sugar maple, red maple, beech, ash, white and silveryellow birch, white pine, and eastern hemlock among others.

While utilizing a sustainable model perfected by Peter Schleifenbaum, HF remains one of the largest suppliers of hardwoods in Canada, and does not hide their harvesting methods from the public. The trails are open for visitors to explore freely, including during harvesting season, which is typically June to October, and January to March. At those times, the ground is ground is dry, solid, or frozen and people can see operations take place. Whereas Algonquin Forest tries to obscure its harvesting from the public, keeping it well away from the trails, HF Research Coordinator Adam Gorgolewski, who holds his PhD in Forestry and is a registered forester, explained that the local Forest prides itself on transparency.

Like most industries, tree harvesting has become almost completely mechanised, however, due to the terrain of the Haliburton Highlands region, HF still uses manual labour, notes Gorgolewski. Instead of large machines grabbing and sawing the trees in half, it's old school lumber jacks felling trees by chainsaw. Done sustainably, forestry remains a very important industry, one that Canada can be proud of. It is also important to remember that trees, like people, do not live forever, each species having its own life span. From tree felling to understanding the dynamics of how to make a forest grow, forestry is a complex art.

With that in mind, Gorgolewski takes me on a two-hour walk, one in their forest right off base camp at 1095 Redkenn Road, and the second hour spent nearby in the Blue Heron Demonstration Forest, to show me the challenges of growing a forest and to help me understand the diseases affecting our trees here in the Highlands.

Increasing sustainability in Blue Heron Demonstration Forest

In the Blue Heron Demonstration Forest, aka "the experimental forest," also open to the public, Gorgolewski fills me in on the various methods they are testing to continue to increase sustainability. Specifically, HF is monitoring the growth of all the trees and the species composition to see what the effects of the different harvests are, which were carried out 10 to 12 years ago. There differences between the plots are nuanced and may be hard for the untrained eye to see as one wanders from one plot to another, says Gorgolewski.

Gorgolewski shared that the four "treatment" methods at work on the 28 different plots, each plot occupying three quarters of a hectare in size: 1. Is a control forest with no harvest. 2. Utilized the diameter limit cut, "which is one of the most common ways people do harvesting on private land in this area," explains Gorgolewski. "It is generally considered not very good and involves cutting everything above a certain size." 3. The type of harvest generally done on crown land and used by the government, which includes "removing up to a third of the trees and focusing on the worst trees first, worst being trees that are sick, for example." 4. The Haliburton Forest method, "is similar to the Crown land version but with slight differences," the researcher explains.

A small difference makes a big difference

Sustainability and economic savvy are the secrets behind Haliburton Forest's success. Gorgolewski explains the slight differences between the crown land method and HF's method that make all the difference. This includes "removing just slightly more trees than the Crown land method because research has shown that what the government prescribes does not remove enough trees to allow adequate sunlight into the forest to maximise growth. The way we do it means the trees grow slightly faster by removing just slightly more trees," explains Gorgolewski.

Another difference is that "the government determines that a tree reaches its financial maturity once it reaches its full potential at 60 cm in diameter. Our data suggest that once a tree is 45 cm in diameter, there is more chance that it will decrease in value beyond that point," said Gorgolewski. Trees, like people, age and become more susceptible to diseases. "Beyond 45 cm diameter, a tree has more chance it will develop a defect, thereby affecting the quality of the wood and reducing its value."

Haliburton Forest's research data is often shared with the government, and they have a strong working relationship, explains Gorgolewski.

Attempts to mitigate Beech Bark Disease

Beech bark disease (BBD) is highly problematic and deadly disease for the trees, caused by the combined insect-fungus action of the beech scale insect and Neonectria fungi, leading to cankers, girdling, and tree death.

BBD only affects beech trees once they reach a certain size, over-time, decimating all mature beech trees. This means that a forest can become over-run with smaller, immature beech trees, suffocating growth of other native saplings which need sunlight to thrive, such as the sugar and red maple, preventing the growth of full-fledged trees. Shrub is important for smaller animals, but a mature canopy is equally important to support wildlife and promote ecological balance.

Furthermore, a beech tree must be mature to produce beech nuts, an important food for bears and other wildlife. BBD prevents beech trees from reaching this stage of maturity.

Managing Beech Bark Disease

In a nutshell, this is why Haliburton Forest is experimenting on different methods to control smaller beech trees before they contract the disease and to ensure a diverse forest, while monitoring BBD in larger beech trees. Treating BBD is possible, but costly. Yet through management and early detection and promoting the growth of beech trees that exhibit more resistance. Just like people, some trees will exhibit better tolerance to the disease than others.

"If we didn't kill off the small beech with the herbicide, we would just end up with a forest that was all small, unproductive beech trees," explains Gorgolewski. The expert shows where they drill a hole into a young beech tree and put a small amount of herbicide inside which kills the tree, but does not affect any other trees around it. The herbicide dissipates within days, so the wood itself is not toxic as it decomposes. "Now, we need to encourage the sugar maples to regenerate, this way lots of light can hit the ground, and they won't be out-competed by the beech," says Gorgolewski.

Research coordinator of Haliburton Forest Adam Gorgolewski, points out details on a guided hike through the property. /IVY KATZ staff

Walking through Blue Heron Forest, it is easy to forget it was harvested only 10 to 12 years ago. It is not apparent. Certainly nothing like those clear-cut images of entire fields of trees cut down that can be often be seen in media. The Haliburton Forest plot has a very healthy mix of mature and medium growth, mixed with various species of saplings and a healthy amount of shrub for the smaller animals. The HF method comes out first place in the experiment, with the Crown land method in second position.

Future outcome

Balancing these variables and understanding the long and short term implications for the ecological health of our forests is a generational feat, and a very fine balance indeed.

Stay tuned for part two in next week's paper where we explore the other ailments affecting our trees, including the invasive Emerald Ash Borer, and what we can do to help.

Visit Haliburton Forest in person and check out their many activities online, including the sky-high canopy tour or a guided tour with Adam Gorgolewski.

A prom-ising future

It was a prom that Haliburton Highlands secondary School students won't soon forget, as they arrived to a power outage this past Saturday, May 23. Due to high winds and rain, many across Haliburton County lost power. The outage struck Sir Sam's Ski and Ride, the venue for this year's prom, just minutes before the event was set to start. While students rolled in, staff and teachers weighed their options for changing venues and dates, before making the most of the evening. Once local Hydro One workers arrived, power was restored within an hour, with many staff calling the Hydro team the heroes of prom.
/EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Bird House Haven supporting ecology with the birds and the bats

IVY KATZ

Journalist

John Robinson stands in his Bird House Haven workshop. /IVY KATZ, staff

Attracting birds to your property is not just a sight for the eyes, bird feeders aid survival during and after harsh winters, while accomplishing many ecological feats, such as helping to maintain healthy ecosystems and support biodiversity, while also eating pesky insects. Don't have time to throw seeds on the ground daily? No problem. Enter John Robinson, owner and operator of Bird House Haven.

Bird House Haven used to be located on Industrial Park Road a couple years ago, when Robinson had set up shop beside Kohara + Co Lighting. He had to close it down when he underwent surgery with a seven month recovery period. Now fully healed and with a new abode and workshop, Robinson is a now a regular installation at the Haliburton Farmers' Market every Tuesday.

At 76-years-old, Robinson, a native of Donald, Ontario, is focusing on building custom and ready-to-buy birdhouses six days a week at his new workshop, where he averages a "half-day" daily. The seventh day is happily spent at the Farmers' Market. He also builds squirrel houses, which helps prevent them from damaging areas on your property, he says. In the next week or so, Robinson will be adding bat houses to his inventory. Bat houses can be positioned in an ideal, sunny location, and provide crucial housing for bats, who are regarded as natures ultimate pest controllers and ecosystem engineers. Bats are also vital pollinators, help disperse seeds, and their droppings are highly concentrated in phosphorus and nitrogen, acting as a powerful fertilizer, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. National Parks.

Robinson says he has a long background in construction, from seeing his parents running a lumber store as he was growing up, to working on the management side of a veneer mill in Blind River and having 53 employees at his height in the construction business, to helping build parts of the ground level suits and the bridge at the Pinestone Resort in the late 1980s to crediting himself with having started the Home Builder's association. Robinson describes himself as gifted and self-taught and feels blessed with the life and career he has had.

Robinson's birdhouses and bird feeders are constructed of 100 per cent cedar, with the exception of the base, he says. Cedar is highly weather and mildew resistant and has more longevity than other woods which rot easily. Despite this, Robinson paints part of each bird house for colour, and puts two coats of sealer on each piece after construction. The roofs are cedar shingles both nailed and glued. Some of them are mounted on reclaimed wood, all of which Robinson sands down meticulously by hand. Robinson's bird houses are unique, coming in a number of different designs, sizes, and shapes. He says if someone wants a custom colour, it's not a problem.

Visit the Farmers' Market to find Robinson and Bird House Haven or contact him by phone at 705-457-8516 to see his wares at his workshop.

Fair aims to support local kids

from page 1

The effort that you put into a horse comes out tenfold with the bond you create with it. You are the horses' entire world. You keep them healthy and provide them a healthy diet.

Every horse has a unique personality. Raising a horse is like taking care of your closest friend.

With rising prices of hay and feed, it is more important than ever to come out, celebrate, and show your support towards those that raise and care for these fine creatures.

With food, vendors, music, and events throughout the day, there is something for everyone to come out for and have a great time with.

Dalrymple Rabbitry will have a booth with baby bunnies that are remarkably soft to pet and there will be a Lego building station, live chainsaw carving, and the ever popular Re/Max balloon if weather permits it.

Last year, the County Fair hosted their light horse show for the first time. This event brought out many young riders from throughout the county to compete in a friendly competition.

This event brings back favourites like egg and spoon, where riders try to balance an egg on a spoon while riding the horse and the carrot race, where riders ride to one end and then try to lead their horse back to the starting line with nothing but a carrot.

"I think the light horse show is great," said Fisher. "It gives our youth something to do outside and a place for them to compete."

With the joy of showing off their skills, there is low pressure while being able to earn prizes for horsemanship.

"I think it is so important and healthy for kids to do something outside," said Fisher. "It is not about the competition or the ribbons. It is the friends you can meet and the feeling of accomplishment you get with your animal."

Aside from the light horse show, the main event will feature a light horse pull, a pony pull, and a draft horse pull.

While her whole family knows how special horses can be, she says there is no greater feeling than seeing a smile on someone's face when petting a horse.

Suddenly, all of the labour behind organizing the event, running the agricultural society, and anxious anticipation is worth it when they see the joy that the event brings people.

Showing up and attending the Haliburton County Fair shows the Minden Agricultural Society that you care about their efforts in supporting local agriculture and traditional ways of living off the land.

Most importantly, the more that come to celebrate, the more fun the event will be.

"The fair is not for the Minden Agricultural Society," said Fisher. "It is about the community."

Admission to the Haliburton County Fair is $10 per adult, $5 for youth under 12 and free for children five and under. The fair will be taking place on June 13 and gates will be open at 8:30 a.m.

Bottles for a cause

Brandy Piels stands outside with Daisy Piels and Logan Mantle during a bottle drive held on Saturday, May 23 at Archie Stouffer Elementary School. Money rased from the drive goes towards programming for the school such as anti-bullying presenters, musicians, and other special programming. /THOMAS SMITH, staff

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Victorian Murder Mystery set to slay Coboconk

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Mystery, history, and a murder most foul.

With a delicious three-course meal to round everything out, Hystory Entertainment's Victorian Murder Mystery Dinner events are set to thrill you, while you indulge in the glamour and latest happenings the 1890s have to offer.

Created by Minden's own Jacquie Barker, the murder mystery dinners bring guests back to Coboconk in the 1890s. As a socialite, you are invited to attend Mr. Alistair Whitcombe's lavish dinner party, held at his Birchwood Estate. As the Lord of the manor, don't forget to call him Mister.

Every attendee is assigned a character and their backstory, relation to Whitcombe, and are provided with a juicy rumour that you have heard about another guest.

Barker has always had the urge to act. Having fostered the bug on her church's drama team and taking courses with Second City, Barker stepped away from the stage to pursue a degree in sociology and a career in social work.

Now retired, Barker is set to make her theatrical dreams a reality.

When you think of murder mystery dinner theatre events, you think of filled tables around a crowded room. The actors run around and perform around you.

Wanting a fully immersive experience, there will be three rooms for guests to wander around, mingling with placed actors in the crowd. The catch is, you do not know who the actors are, and who are the guests.

At this dinner party, everyone is a suspect.

"I was always intrigued by it," said Barker. "I loved the idea of a historical escape."

Growing up in a Victorian-era house, she has always had a love for the design and fashion of the Victorian period.

With the Victorian era taking place throughout the entirety of Queen Victoria's reign, from 1837 to 1901, there were many changes to fashion during this time.

Wanting to increase accessibility of the event to have fashion similar to the modern era, Barker chose 1890, a period with dresses that show off the hourglass figure. At this time, men still wore nice suits, with white bowties when going to the highest of formal events.

While period clothing is appreciated, dress in your finest attire to dazzle others amongst the candlelight. If you choose to wear a modern style dress, Barker asked that Victorian accessory or addition is added to place yourself within the theme.

Hosting the Victorian Murder Mystery dinners at the Coboconk Community Centre is not without its challenges. With concrete floors and an open floor plan, Barker is innovating for the event with sheeting to section off the different rooms.

Set pieces of furniture and an eclectic array of antiques, alongside everyone's vintage attire will teleport you directly to Coboconk's Birchwood Estate of 1890.

In preparation for the event, Barker has jumped into Canadian history.

Mirroring contemporary politics, topics like immigration, connections to the United States, and religious tension are some of the hottest talking points. Sir John A. Macdonald was recently elected for his second term in 1878, with his death in 1891 simply a foreshadowed omen.

For Barker, she gets to unleash a creative side of her that she feels has been held back her entire life.

"It is a process of self discovery," she said.

With her planning process starting in February, she has been busy with finding actors, getting set pieces together, researching, and preparing the talking points and plot for the script.

Most important for a luxurious dinner, she has a caterer secured with delicious courses anyone from the Victorian era would be envious of.

"I hope it will create a real sense of community and teach people about national history,"said Barker.

A brand new small business, Hystory Entertainment will be hosting their first ever dinner theatre productions on July 10 and 11 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Coboconk Community Centre. A silent auction will also be featured at the event.

Tickets can be purchased directly from Barker by calling 705-209-3044 or by emailing hystoryentertainment@gmail.com.

Riverwalk and Boardwalk open

The Township of Minden Hills advises that the Minden Riverwalk and Boardwalk will be open starting May 22, 2026, for the spring/summer/fall season.

Remaining closed for further review:

- Water Street Dock
- Peck Street Boat Launch
- *Snowdon Park – Yellow and Orange Trails

*Snowdon Park Yellow and Orange trail systems remain closed, as cleanup is ongoing throughout those trail systems. Further updates will be provided at a later date.

To receive important information and updates, including in the event of an emergency, please subscribe to our website at www.subscribe.mindenhills.ca/subscribe

-Submitted

the arts council haliburton highlands

2026 Members' Exhibition

AGNES JAMIESON GALLERY

May 28 - July 18, 2026

Opening Reception with Artists
Saturday, May 30 | 1:00 - 3:00 pm
176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden
705-286-3763 | culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca

FIELDING · the arts council · MINDEN HILLS Cultural Centre

In Case of Emergency Dial 911 / After-Hours
Municipal Emergency Dial 1-866-856-3247

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- Join us for the opening reception of the Members Exhibition of the Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands on Saturday, May 30 from 1 – 3 pm. Featuring over 40 local artists, the exhibition is presented in partnership with the Art in Public Spaces Committee of the Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands, the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, and Fielding Estate Winery. The exhibit is on display until July 18.

- *Museum of Her,* a new exhibition by national recognized artist Michèle Karch-Ackerman opens on Thursday, May 28. The exhibit will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery (Kirkwood Room) until July 18. The Artist Talk is scheduled for Saturday, June 6 at 1:00 PM.

- *Miijim: Traditional Foods of the Anishinaabeg*, on loan from The MUSE: Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora, was created in partnership between MUSE, Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation, and the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Manitoba. The exhibit focuses on miijim - food - and its importance to the body, mind, soul, and heart of the Anishinaabeg. The exhibit will be on display from June 2 to August 29 at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre.

- The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, and Nature's Place is now open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm! Stop by Fridays at 11 am for the Toddler Discover Zone, and Saturdays at 11 am for Hands-On activities! All are welcome. Admission is by donation.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

REGISTER TO VOTE

Confirm you are on the Voters List! The next municipal election will be held on Monday, October 26, 2026. To register and/or confirm your information visit the Elections Ontario Register Voter Portal www.registertovoteon.ca/
Don't forget about your School Support Designation! Review it by June 1 at www.mpac.ca/schoolsupport.

SIGN UP TODAY

May 30th is the deadline to apply to be a vendor during Minden's Canada Day celebrations. To get the application email Megan Locker, mlocker@mindenhills.ca
Summer camp registration is open! Sign your child up for one of our weeks of summer camp in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena or online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

May 28 – Regular Council Meeting
June 11 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON K0M 2K0
705-286-1260 Toll Free: 1-844-277-1260 Fax 705-286-4917
Township.Minden.Hills · Minden Hills@twpmindenhills · @Township_MindenHills

Land Trust aims to mitigate flood risks

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

While we wind down a flooding season for the books, many environmental organizations have opted to start looking into mitigation strategies in an effort to slow down water concerns in the future.

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) recently penned an article outlining some of the efforts landowners can make that may change the outcome of the spring floods. "As the waters recede we reflect on our own mission, and realization that to protect our homes, we need to protect one of nature's best defences: wetlands," reads the post.

Communications manager for the organization, Adrian Martin, shared that wetlands may be a key component in the management of water levels. "There's a number of factors that we, as homeowners, can address," he said. "But you don't know what it's worth until you've lost it."

Martin noted that wetlands are often under-appreciated, yet they are one of our most effective and cost efficient tools for protecting our community against floods. The properties are able to act as giant sponges - slowing down and capturing flood waters before they hit your basement.

"The data backs this up," wrote Martin. "Ontario studies show wetlands reduce rural flooding costs by up to 29 per cent. Even the insurance industry - which now pays out billions in claims annually - has pivoted, finding it more profitable to invest in wetland restoration than to pay for the aftermath of their destruction."

Wetlands have been proven to play a key role in the mitigation of extreme water events, due to the spongy soil that absorbs excess run-off. The Land Trust is working on developing strategies to protect these areas in light of the increased flood events. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

While wetlands can't exclusively block the risks of flooding, Martin noted that they have been proven to decrease the severity of the increased events.

"The cumulative loss of local wetlands has dropped the Gull River watershed's capacity to absorb flood waters over time," said Martin. "When paired with a climate change induced increase in the intensity of spring storms the result is the frequent, devastating floods of recent years. Every additional wetland we lose further lowers the land's capacity to absorb flood waters, meaning more damage, and greater costs our community can't afford."

The Land Trust recently purchased a 50 acres of wetland just north of Minden on the Gull River watershed, providing direct flood protection for the community.

While wetlands ebb and flow with the seasons, Martin explained that a wetland is not defined by water levels, but rather, by the species that reside in the area. The regions can vary between a fen, a bog, a swamp, or a marsh, with wetland as the overarching umbrella term.

Beyond soaking up excess waters, Martin noted that wetlands also offer a slow-release water option during drought time, or act as fire-stoppers during forest fires.

"We don't want to be anti-development," explained Martin. "It's going to happen. But we need to value and celebrate the things we benefit from." The Land Trust is currently mapping out all wetlands across the county, which they are sharing with planning staff at the County of Haliburton.

"Join us in truly valuing our wetlands for the incredible gifts they provide our community. Rather than filling them in to build that next home, let's integrate them into our developed spaces as core infrastructure and celebrate them as places of beauty and life," said Martin. "It is a reminder that when we work with rather than against nature, we are rewarded for it - and that is a gift worth protecting with everything we have."

Transport Canada / Transports Canada

Canadian Navigable Waters Act

The Municipality of Dysart et al ..... hereby gives notice that an
(Owner – Individual or company name)

application has been made to the Navigable Waters Registry, pursuant to the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* for approval of the work described herein and its site and plans.

Pursuant to paragraph 10(1)(b) of the said Act,
The Municipality of Dysart et al ..... has deposited with the Minister of Transport,
(Owner – Individual or company name)

on the on-line Common Project Search Registry (http://cps.canada.ca/) under the registry number 14931, a description of the following work, its site and plans:

- The project includes removal of existing truss bridge and partial removal of abutments;
- Construction of new abutments behind the existing;
- Launching of new modular bridge;
- Reconstruction of approach embankments, including some retaining structures;
- Installation of new code compliant barrier system and guide rail; and
- Site cleanup and restoration.

in, on, over, under, through or

across..... the Drag River .....
(name of the river, the lake or other navigable water)

at Head Lake Rotary Park in Haliburton .....
(name of place where work is to be located)

in front of lot number Lot 17, Concession 8, County of Haliburton .....
(or at the foot of such a street, etc.) (see note below)

Comments regarding the effect of this work on marine navigation can be sent through the Common Project Search site mentioned above under the Comment section (search by the above referenced number) or if you do not have access to the internet, by sending your comments directly to:

Director of Public Works
Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Avenue PO Box 389, Haliburton Ontario, Canada K0M 1S0

Posted at..... Haliburton, Ontario .....this ...12..... day of ..... May ....., 20 ...26...
(City, Province) (day) (Month) (year)
Municipality of Dysart et al
(full name of owner)

Transport Canada (TC) will not make your comments on a project available to the public on the online public registry. However, any information related to a work is considered as unclassified public record and could be accessible upon legal request. As such, the information and records provided should not contain confidential or sensitive information. If you want to provide confidential or sensitive information that you think should not be made public, please contact TC before submitting it.

NOTE: The subject site (Head Lake Pedestrian Bridge) is located at 45°2'48.8"N 78°30'44.5"W (45.046897, -78.512351).

Canada

U–Links seeking project ideas for coming year

It's that time of year again! U-Links, a leading organization facilitating community-based research collaborations, is inviting community groups in Haliburton County to submit their research project proposals for the upcoming winter/spring semester. This call aims to foster partnerships between community organizations and student researchers from Trent University and other post-secondary partners to address important issues impacting the social, cultural, environmental, and economic aspects of the county.

Since 1999, U-Links has been instrumental in connecting community organizations with talented student researchers, resulting in numerous successful research projects. By participating in this initiative, organizations gain access to valuable research insights that can inform decision-making processes, increase capacity and contribute to the betterment of Haliburton County.

No research background? No problem! Our staff are here to guide you through each step of the process. All you need is an idea or identified problem within Haliburton County, and we will assist you in developing a comprehensive project proposal and identifying the appropriate research questions. Whether your project relates to community development, health sciences, business, forensics, environmental sciences, or any other field, our dedicated professionals will provide the necessary support needed to bring your idea to life.

To give you an idea of the diverse projects we facilitate, here are a few examples of ongoing community-based research projects in the 2026-2027 academic year:

- Loon Artificial Nesting Platforms Study
- Seasonal Apple Production in Community Kitchens
- Development of a Hazardous Algal Bloom Reporting Framework
- Data-Driven Insights for CanoeFM's Future

Maybe you're a business that needs a new marketing angle, a municipal department that needs some help with an initiative, or a not-for-profit, wondering if a new idea will take hold. All ideas are welcome – bring them to us for discussion!

In addition to research projects, U-Links also offers opportunities for community-service learning (CSL). This unique form of experiential education allows students and community members to collaborate on specific activities or events with tangible outcomes. One such example is the annual Haliburton-Muskoka-Kawartha Children's Water Festival, where Environmental Science students from Trent University and community members work together to organize and facilitate educational activity stations. Another example is a recent re-naturalization initiative for the Glamor Lake Cottagers Association where students from Trent University assisted with plantings to stabilize a sensitive shoreline after a hydro line clearing.

The deadline for contacting us to discuss your project ideas or topics is November 24, 2026.

Join U-Links in making a difference in Haliburton County through community-based research. Together, we can create positive change and contribute to the sustainable growth, knowledge capital and informed decision making of our community.

For more information and to see examples of our previous and available research projects please visit www.ulinks.ca. Contact our Program Coordinator, Frank Figuli at coordinator@ulinks.ca or phone our office at 705-286-2411.

Submitted

New language, new journeys

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

There are over 7,000 languages spoken on our planet.

In Canada, we are taught French from an early age in school, and it is a badge of national pride to be bilingual.

For many in Ontario, English is their first language, while you can say a few phrases in French. If you have travelled throughout Canada, you have likely benefitted from being able to communicate in French.

For Susan Forrester, it was a trip to Costa Rica around 30 years ago that sparked her drive to learn Spanish.

When visiting a country, knowing the very basics of a language acts as a key for conversing. While you may not be fully bilingual, it is polite to make an attempt in the local language first, instead of directly jumping to English.

"It would have been very helpful to know other words," said Forrester.

As a high school French teacher, she knows the importance of both learning and sharing new languages. Working for the Ministry of Education, Forrester was influential in pushing for French as Second Language education across Ontario. Perhaps you may have heard of the DELF test. Forrester is one of the people who celebrated when the Trillium Lakeslands District School Board first implemented the testing for their students.

"I am not getting any younger," said Forrester. "I knew that if I wanted to get better, then I would have to work on it."

Residents of Haliburton and Minden may remember Greg Roe's Café Español offered at Castle Antiques in Haliburton and at the Minden library. The Spanish Conversation Circle thrived, with the number of participants fluctuating around 15. Forrester was a frequent attendee of the conversation circles.

"It was great fun," she said.

After some time, the number of participants dwindled, and Roe sought to pass the torch on.

A torch that Forrester happily took upon herself.

Living closer to Kinmount than downtown Minden, Forrester reached out to the Kinmount library to see if they would be interested in hosting their Spanish learning group.

Inheriting the list of attendees from the library, she was happily surprised when so many people reached out to join the group.

As a part of both the Kinmount Library's and Minden Library's programming, the Spanish language group meetings are advertised on their calendars and open to the public.

This publicity has caused a trickle effect of new participants.

While a portion of the group are weekly attendees, many people visit the Spanish language groups before going on a trip to a Spanish speaking country.

The best part of the groups? There is no pressure in committing to the group. Plus, there is no testing along the way.

Throughout running the programs, she realized that there was great potential in focusing on oral interactions that are likely to come up during people's trips.

Things like asking where your luggage is, where is the bathroom, and questions about your hotel room.

"You can get by with English," assures Forrester. "When you want your second language is when something has gone wrong."

In this modern age of teaching, Forrester started to use ChatGPT as a tool in creating custom-tailored conversations in Spanish. Realizing that conversation circle participants were participating for trips, she learned that ChatGPT offered strength in customizing conversational prompts related to geographical areas of interests and unique cultural topics.

One trip that she has jumped into is the Camino de Santiago. This trip involves pilgrimaging to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, hiking from France to the West Coast of Spain.

It just so happens that two of the current participants that frequent the Spanish Conversation Circle in Minden are making the pilgrimage, but as separate travellers.

Through the conversation circle's trip-based chronological learning structure, Forrester leads the conversation from when you arrive at the airport, to your hike, to asking about the cathedral's location. People can then tailor the conversations to meet their needs.

For hikers, she wants to make sure people can go and ask for help, learning the words for an injured ankle and where to find food and water.

While learning a language through a textbook and apps like Duolingo are great introductory tools, actually conversing with someone can be a culture shock.

For new speakers, Forrester says that the older you get, the more apprehension you feel in case you make mistakes in a new language.

With a willingness to try, it is better to make mistakes then take no chance for improvement.

"I am not an expert in Spanish," she said. "However, I am using this as the chance to get better."

Just like her preservation of French, Forrester says that repetition keeps your language ability up to date.

"When you speak, you feel it expresses who you are," said Forrester.

Beyond diving into new cultures and meeting new people, learning Spanish has huge benefits in improving cognitive abilities and staving off the harmful effects of dementia. In a 2024 study published in Healthcare titled *Living with Dementia and Their Caregivers,* researchers reported no agitation in early-stage dementia patients learning a new language. In fact, the social benefits of overcoming the challenge of learning the new language and the ability to make new friends saw an exceptional improvement on the patients' lives even one year after the study.

For Forrester, she hopes that her dedication to new languages reduces any chance of future neurodegenerative diseases.

For Spanish Conversation Circle participants, it is the welcoming environment that keeps people coming back regularly. While each participant has varying abilities in Spanish, everyone is open and supportive of each other.

"Everyone is wonderful," said Forrester. "Both of the libraries are tremendous supporters."

Forrester compares learning a language to watching a child grow up. Before long, you don't realize the improvements that they have made.

The Spanish Conversation Circle takes place on Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Kinmount branch of the Kawartha Lakes Public Library.

In Minden, the Spanish Conversation Circle takes place on Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Minden program ends on May 29. With enough interest, the group will restart in the fall.

Recently, an anonymous donator purchased a television for the program room at the Kinmount library. Forrester would like to personally thank the donor for this generosity and assure that it will be greatly appreciated by both the Spanish learning and ukulele learning groups.

Water water, everywhere
Ontario Watercross Racing Association visited Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre this past weekend for their annual spring show across the pond. The idea is to travel across an open body of water on a snowmobile. The event drew many to watch the speedy feats of gravity. /THOMAS SMITH staff

1014 Lois Lane, Minden Hills

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Established in the early 1900s, the Rockcliffe Hotel offers a rare opportunity to acquire a landmark property that seamlessly blends timeless heritage charm with modern amenities in the heart of the Haliburton Highlands.Nestled along the shores of beautiful Gull Lake in Minden Hills, this exceptional 7-suite boutique hotel has undergone extensive renovations and upgrades over the past two years, creating a turnkey opportunity for visionary new ownership.

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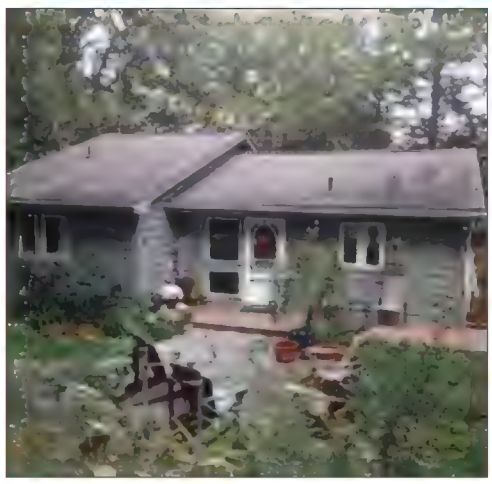

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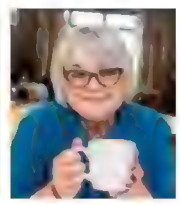

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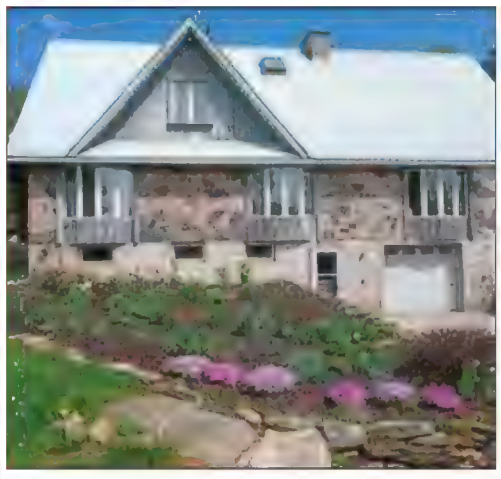

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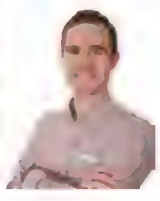

Kelly Mercer
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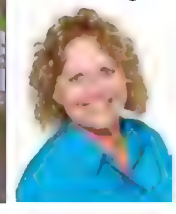

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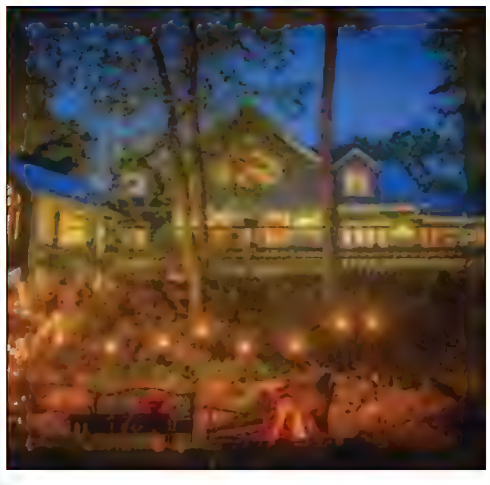

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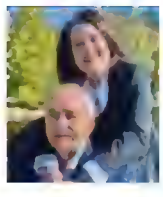

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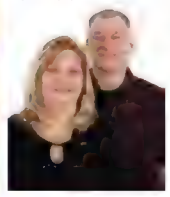

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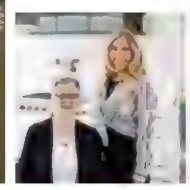

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Blue Jay Café: a huge success

The name Blue Jay Café is based on the iconic 'BlueBird Café' of Nashville. The intention with this new coffee house is to give a daytime performance opportunity to people who would otherwise not be able to perform at the open mic nights. The Monday of a long weekend seemed the perfect time to catch some people from the city before they had to head home. The performers registered in advance and each had a 10 minute performance time.

It was full house for the event, held on Monday, May 18, at the Haliburton United Church. This was the second Blue Jay Café created and hosted by Bethany Houghton, Jocelyn Regina, Lizzy Clarke, Kelsey Redman and Laurie Sweig.

There were performances by The Smooth Operators, Tim Cogen, Not the Boss of Me, Patsy Chalmers, Max Ward, Thomas Austin-Ward and Gary Baumgartner as well as with special guest youth performers who thrilled the audience with their talents. The afternoon ended with Carl Dixon borrowing a guitar and playing a couple of tunes.

Local artist, Barbara Hart, brought several beautiful paintings that were set-up throughout the room and added a special ambiance.

Refreshments, including coffee, tea and all kinds of amazing baked goods, were provided by Skyline Dance Studio.

This wonderful feedback was sent to the organizers:

An intimate and fun afternoon sharing music, connection with yummy food offerings! Many thanks to the organizers! Especially for inviting our young emerging musicians. - Jodi Timgren, The Smooth Operators

I am thankful to you all for providing the safe and welcoming space for everyone, especially the youth to shake off those nerves and grow more comfortable performing and sharing their talents. The opportunity to learn by enjoying a variety of music from others is a gift and an opportunity that doesn't always happen very often.

I really hope this project continues, as I can already see it becoming something very special for our community. - Katie Appleton, mother of a young violinist

It was a well organized event, from art to tasty treats to a great sound setup. As a performer, it was a pleasure to play and to witness other local talent as well. Great crowd too. - Tim Cogan, performer

The Blue Jay Café team will be meeting in the new future to set a date for the next event.

Submitted

Municipality of Dysart et al

135 Maple Ave., P.O. Box 389,
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
Telephone: (705) 457-1740
Email: info@dysartetal.ca
Website: www.dysartetal.ca

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

- **DATE:** Thursday, June 11th, 2026
- **TIME:** 11:00 am.
- **LOCATION:** The Committee of Adjustment meeting will be held in the Council Chambers and electronically via Zoom.
  The meeting will be live streamed to YouTube.

APPLICATIONS:

1. D13-MV-2025-014 McLean

   - The following variances are requested to permit the reconstruction of a seasonal dwelling on a lot located in the WR4 zone:

     a) A variance to Section 5.2 to permit a seasonal dwelling to have a minimum interior side lot line setback on the north side of 3.8 metres (12.4 feet) as opposed to the required minimum of 4.5 metres (15 feet).

     b) A variance to Section 5.2 to permit a seasonal dwelling to have a minimum interior side lot line setback on the south side of 4.4 metres (14.4 feet) as opposed to the required minimum of 4.5 metres (15 feet).

     c) A variance to Section 5.2 to permit a seasonal dwelling to have a maximum structure height of 10.6 metres (34.8 feet) as opposed to the permitted maximum of 9.5 metres (31.2 feet).

     d) A variance to Section 5.2 to permit the maximum shoreland lot coverage to be 18% as opposed to the permitted maximum of 15%.

     e) A variance to Section 3.19(a)(iv) to permit a main building dimension most nearly parallel to the shoreline to be 52.3% of lot frontage for a total width of 16.8 metres (55.1 feet) as opposed to the permitted maximum of 50% or 18.5 metres, whichever is less.

   - Location: Part Lot 14, Concession 3, Lot 55, Plan 331, in the Geographic Township of Harburn, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.
     Roll No. 050-000-13400
     Civic Address: 1342 Dignan Road

2. D13-MV-2026-005 Honderich

   - The following variance is requested to permit a seasonal dwelling to have a decreased street setback on a lot located in the WR4 zone:

     a) A variance to Section 3.30(c) to permit a seasonal dwelling to have a street setback from the edge of the travelled portion of Remembrance Lane of 6 metres (19.6 feet) as opposed to the required 7.5 metres (25 feet).

   - Location: Part Lot 1, Concession 1, Plan 19R-1462, Parts 1 to 3, in the Geographic Township of Harcourt, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.
     Roll No. 030-000-01100
     Civic Address: 1024 Remembrance Lane

FOR MORE INFORMATION about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Secretary-Treasurer at ameijer@dysartetal.ca.

ANY PERSON is entitled to attend the hearing to express his/her views about these applications or may be represented by an agent for that purpose. If you do not attend the hearing the Committee may proceed in your absence, and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings. The Committee will accept oral and written submissions.

A COPY OF THE DECISION will be sent to the applicant, the agent and to each person who has filed with the Secretary-Treasurer a written request for notice of the decision.

FURTHER INFORMATION: including specific information about the zone provisions affected by each application, and electronic meeting process is available from the Planning and Land Information Department at the Municipal Office by appointment only (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or by phoning 705-457-1740.

Adam Meijer
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment

Classifieds

Call 705-457-1037
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com
Deadline Friday at 12 pm

COMING EVENTS

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Celebration of Life

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9	2	6	3	4	1	7	5	8
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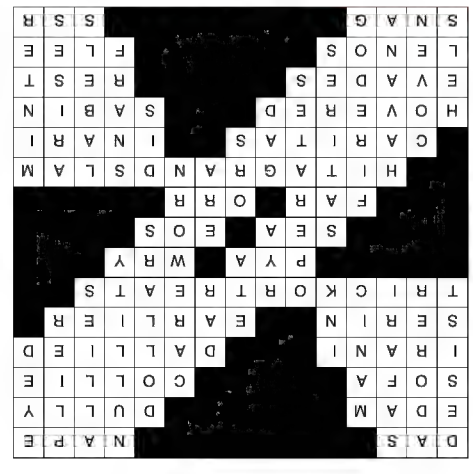

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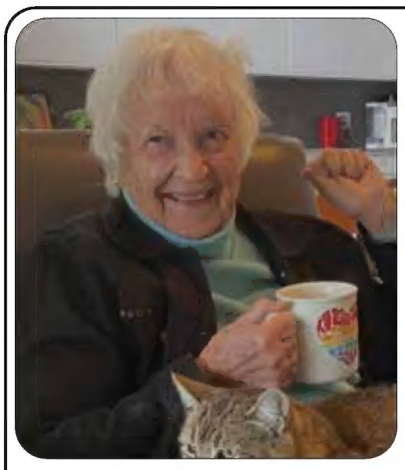
OBITUARIES



Barbara Brownsberger (nee Downie)

"Just be happy". That's what Barb would tell you in her 91 years of wisdom. She'll be missed by her small but mighty family, daughter Joanne Brownsberger Bishop, SIL Steve Bishop (her absolute favorite), granddaughter Alisha, whose accomplishments as a woman and architect Barb is immensely proud of, grand SIL Gage Shelly, and "other" daughter Karen Scholz, plus fur babies, Lucy, Nyxy, & Agnes. Ok, she was super proud of all of us!

Barb had a wonderful life, growing up in Toronto, enjoyed several years as an usherette at Maple Leaf Gardens, where she thought Elvis was "meh", but met the love of her life, Norm Brownsberger (1930-2009). They were early cottagers on Eagle Lake (1971 -thank you, Bob Bishop, for closing that deal), and made best friends with Mary & Hubert Scholz, sharing a lot of rum rum rum! The highlight was retirement in Florida, on the golf course, dances, card parties, watching Blue Jays games, & some great cruise vacations built in. At the end, she loved the Hali condo life, cards with the ladies, and bingo night was always fun.

As an only child of Scottish parents, she would not want anyone wasting money on cards, flowers, or planting trees in her memory; instead, please enjoy a martini & a good bottle of wine at home with a toast! We hope she's forever dancing to Blue Spanish Eyes with Dad. Xo. Add that to your playlist!

Private Funeral Arrangements

A private celebration of Barbara's life will be held by her family at a later date. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

Community FUNERAL HOME
www.communityfuneralhomes.com

Norma Mary Isaacs (nee Poole)

Norma Isaacs (née Poole) passed away unexpectedly in Haliburton, Ontario, after spending a wonderful day with her husband Ray, on May 12, 2026. They had just celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary six days before.

Norma was born in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1936. She met Ray in Cape Town and they married in 1961. They immigrated to Canada and arrived in Toronto in July 1967, with two young children and a third on the way. When her kids reached high school, she returned to school to get her BA from the University of Toronto, studying the Humanities, on which she placed great importance. After raising their family in Toronto, they moved to Haliburton in 2006.

Norma will be deeply missed by her beloved husband, Ray, children Barry (Janine), Tracy (Diane), and David (Ruby), treasured grandchildren Cameron (Megan), Liam (Michael), Devin, great grandson Jaylen, sister Rene in Switzerland, cousins Geoff (Linda) and Mike (late Ann-Marie) and the entire Poole family, the Isaacs and Van der Ross families in South Africa, and cousins Jill and Lesley in Australia.

Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Norma's life took place Monday, May 25th, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (Visitation 1 hour prior). As an expression of sympathy, donations in Norma's memory can be made to SIRCH Community Services or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, both of which Norma supported, and would be greatly appreciated. To read more about Norma, see the Haliburton Community Funeral Home obituaries page: www.communityfuneralhomes.com

Community FUNERAL HOME
www.communityfuneralhomes.com

Robert "Bob" Johnson

With deep love and gratitude for a life well lived, the family of Robert "Bob" Johnson announces his passing on May 14th, 2026, at the age of 74. Born on July 30th, 1951, in Hagersville to Ruth and Murray Johnson (predeceased). Bob was the beloved husband of Debbie Johnson, with whom he spent many years of blissful marriage. Bob is also survived by his sister, Debbie Whittard. Bob was a loving and devoted stepfather to Jason and Beverly. Even though they weren't his biological children, Bob loved them fiercely. Bob will also be deeply missed by his grandchildren, Dylan, Jacob, and Jordyn.

Bob found joy in the vast outdoors: hunting, fishing, and enjoying nature. Many of these hunting trips were spent side-by-side with his good friend Kevin. He was an avid golfer, even managing to win a few trophies in his golf tournaments. When he wasn't outside or on the golf green, you could often find Bob carving his wooden ducks and geese. Most of all, Bob enjoyed spending time with his family. Bob's warmth, love for life, and ability to bring joy to those around him will never be forgotten. He will be fondly remembered by all who had the privilege to know him.

Private Funeral Arrangements

As per Bob's wishes, cremation has taken place. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Sick Kids Foundation in Bob's memory would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

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In Loving Memory of

Edna Viola Morgan (nee Hadley)

Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 in her 100th year.

Beloved wife of the late Harold R. Morgan. Loving mother of Beth (predeceased), John and his wife Ingrid of Germany, Harry and his wife Peggy of Haliburton. Loving grandmother of Matthias (Katrin), Michael (Miriam), Jessica (Moritz), Christian (Jennifer), Daniel (Meghna), David (Rebecca), Stephen (Stephanie), Rachel (Jenna), Sarah (Jeremy) and great grandmother to Ben, Philipp, Robin, Finn, Levi, Luis, Elijah, Henry, Diana, Addie, Lizzie, Noah, Luke, Jake and Theodora. Dear sister of Marjorie Hallam and the late Charlie Hadley.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St., Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Saturday, June 20, 2026 at 10:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate Edna's Life at 11:00 am. Reception to follow at the church downstairs.

Memorial Donations to Haliburton United Church or to Highland Hills United Church would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

Lynn Craigmyle

March 7, 1940 – May 18, 2026

It is with profound sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of Lynn Craigmyle after a brief stay in the Haliburton Hospital.

Lynn is survived by his partner in crime and "Little Holy", Carole (nee Costain), son Doug (Jackie) and Daughter Dianne *Dizey* (Phil). He will be deeply missed for both his humour and wisdom by his three grandsons, Maxwell (Josie), Bennett and Jake, and by his bonus grandkids Connie (Cam), Rodrigo and Liam.

Lynn fell in love with Haliburton when his parents bought a cottage on the shores of Drag Lake in 1956. He met the love of his life while working in a real estate office in Lindsay. It didn't take long for those two crazy kids to make their way to Haliburton full time. It was here that they raised Doug and Dianne, became deeply rooted in their community and built a beautiful life surrounded by nature and great friends. When not working in Real Estate Lynn would often take "character building" adventures with the kids. Both Doug and Dianne developed a deep love for the outdoors and nature through these adventures.

Lynn loved his family hard. He was a very proud husband, dad and grandpa, making sure he spent time with everyone. You felt like you were the only person that mattered when he gave you his ear.

Unfortunately in 2003, after a short but successful battle with cancer, Lynn's mobility was affected, so some of his adventures had to come to an end. His love of exploring never did. From hours spent by the shores of Dutton Lake in his beloved Haliburton Forest and Wildlife, to listening to the tales of his kids on their global adventures, living life fully was never far from his mind.

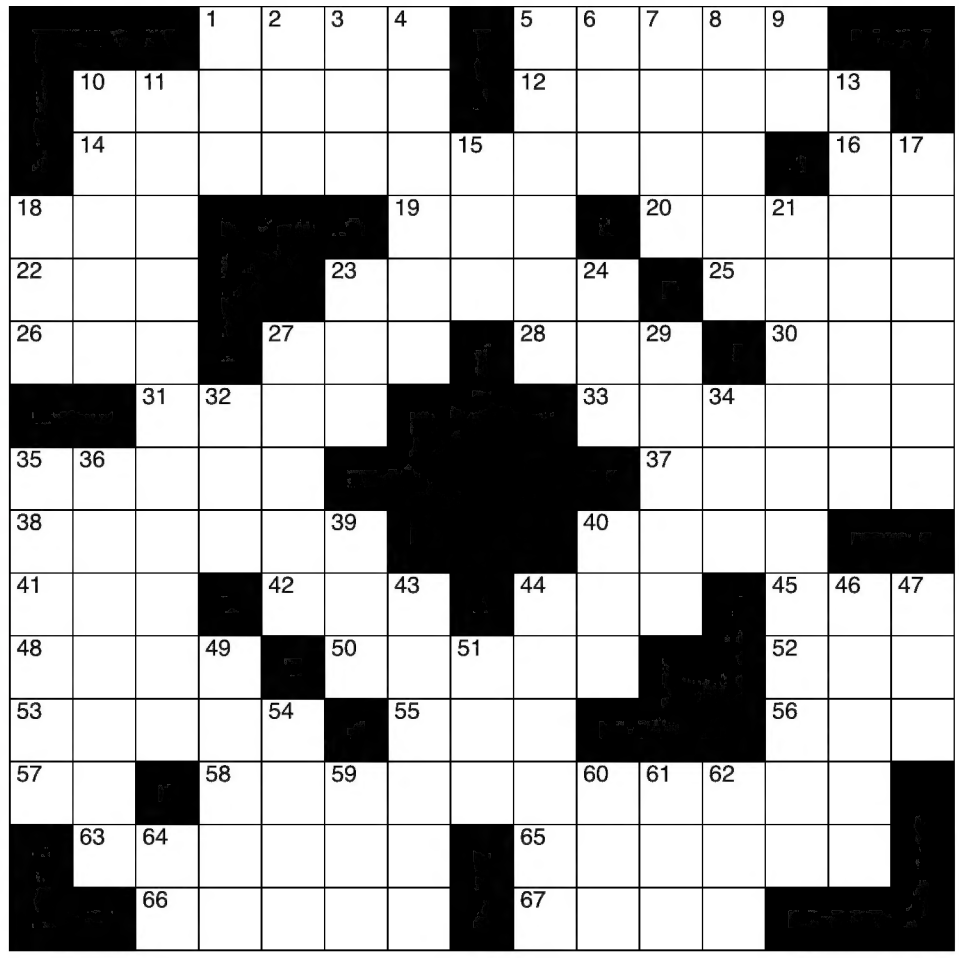
Cremation has taken place.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Snowflake Meadows Rescue (by cheque only), Haliburton Forest and Wildlife (by cheque only) or Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) in Lynn's honour and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

Kwarky

A relaxing, distracted evening at home.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Streetcar
5. Take __ of it!
10. SW Asia peninsula
12. Beating wings to escape from a perch
14. One who revitalizes
16. Indicates position
18. Dishonorable man
19. Singer King Cole
20. Short-tailed marten
22. One point east (clockwise) of due north
23. The god of the underworld in ancient mythology
25. Dirt
26. Superconducting super collider
27. Not good
28. A way to sink
30. Unwell
31. Follow orders
33. Deep ravine
35. Perfumery practice
37. Indian film director Sultan
38. Member of U.S. Navy
40. Wing-like
41. Very fast airplane
42. Slang for cigarette
44. Most cars still need it
45. Political war chest
48. Cools down
50. Diminish toward one end
52. Indigenous person of Thailand
53. Combined
55. Container
56. Expression of satisfaction
57. Thou
58. Return a favor
63. Go over once more
65. Removed
66. ÒSilence of the __'
67. Comedian Rogen

CLUES DOWN

1. Children's game
2. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
3. Own (Scottish)
4. Female follower of Bacchus
5. Subsides
6. Protects from weather
7. Spanish municipality
8. Supermarket chain
9. Domain name
10. Semitic peoples
11. Designs anew
13. City associated with Jesus
15. Cool!
17. Bank employee
18. Central nervous system
21. Standardized piece of text
23. A type of fever
24. Baglike structure in a plant or animal
27. Threaten persistently
29. Aspirations
32. Baby's eating accessory
34. Actress Thurman
35. Turn into bone
36. One who saves you
39. Consume
40. Swiss river
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Categories
46. Expressed amazement
47. It's important in respiration (abbr.)
49. Greek war dance
51. Bland, semi-liquid food
54. Regard in a specified way
59. Taxi
60. Naturally occurring solid material
61. Feline
62. Post-burning residue
64. Elevated railroad

Answers on page 21

Brought to you by

SUDOKU

6			4		8			
	5					3		
4		2					5	
								6
		9			4			
	2	1	8		7			
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3							9	8
				3	5	2		

Level: Intermediate

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Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 21

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Voters hear from the candidates

by Andrew Milne

The economy, the constitution, gun control.

All the usual suspects were in evidence for last week's all-candidates' meeting, Wednesday evening at the Minden Community Centre.

Present were Lorne Chester (PC), Rick Denyer (NDP), Pat Dunn (Reform), Charles Olito (Canadian Action Party), and incumbent John O'Reilly (Liberal).

There were few standout moments in the evening, with all candidates making reasonably strong presentations. Political neophytes Denyer and Dunn were surprisingly confident before the crowd — Denyer keeping to brief, but passionately delivered platform statements emphasizing his party's stand on social programs, Dunn making spirited, even polished attacks on both Liberal and PC candidates' positions on gun control and the Quebec question.

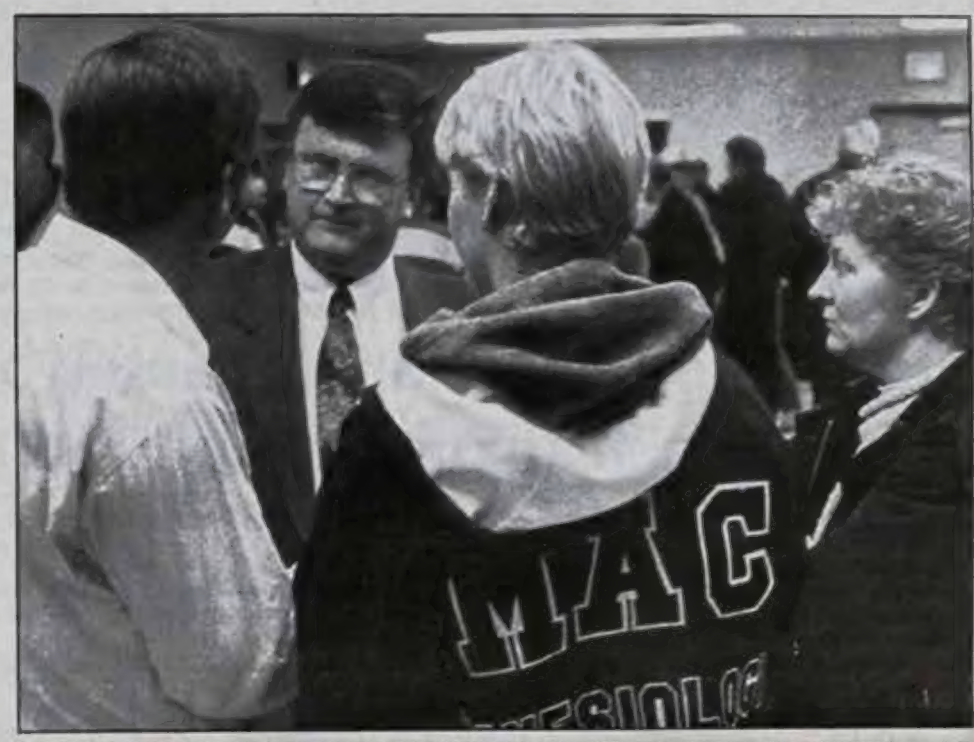
The crowd itself, however, may well have been the star player of the evening — very nearly a full hall showed, and frequently drove the discussion, with often pointed, often creative questions that appeared to keep the candidates working hard.

The men behind the mikes frequently found themselves answering for past policy statements, their voting records, their parties' various approaches to national unity, and fielding suggestions for innovation in government some of them clearly hadn't considered before. Some of those in attendance, furthermore, weren't taking anything that sounded remotely evasive for an answer.

Overall, the political dynamics of the local meeting roughly mirrored the national parties' platforms and perceived strengths. O'Reilly concentrated, in concert with his campaign to date, on portraying his and his government's record through the past term as that of competent and sensible administration.

"Paul Martin brought in the first actual cuts to a federal budget since World War II, and as of 1998, we won't be borrowing new money any more... When the Liberals came into office, Canada was at the bottom of the G7 countries as a place to live. Now, we're second from the top," O'Reilly told the crowd.

Chester attacked the incumbent government on continued lagging employment figures, and O'Reilly specifically on his perceived weak spot — gun control. The incumbent is now easily infamous in the gun community for having promised to vote against his government on bill C-68, and then failing to show for the vote.



Following the formal portion of the all-candidates meeting Wednesday evening election hopefuls waded into rthe audience to answer questions, press the flesh and deal with issues that didn't get a full airing. Reform candidate Pat Dunn is seen here talking with spectators.

Said Chester, "This election is about integrity. This election is about credibility. This election is about broken Liberal promises... When I talk to the youth of today. I don't see dreams... Where are the jobs?"

Chester also found a few words for Reform's national policies — alluding to Reform leader Preston Manning's politics as a western separatist, and suggesting the Reform leader has become "more interested in becoming the president of Western Canada" than in preserving national unity.

Dunn's attack on O'Reilly's position roughly mirrored Chester's — "Mr O'Reilly," he said, "misled us. It's a question of integrity. If you can't keep your word, don't give it" — with equivalent fire back in the Conservatives' direction on the subject of national unity, and suggestions to the effect that the Conservatives have gone too far toward appeasing separatist forces' demands.

NDP candidate Denyer talked the party line through most of the evening, with the signature NDP line in this election — "Send the NDP to Ottawa as a conscience for the Liberals" — frequently repeated.

"The Liberals are listening to Preston Manning," said Denyer. "The Liberals are listening to Jean Charest. My opponents are still blaming our social programs for the national debt. They don't seem to want to talk about the real reason: high interest rates... They all talk a good line on job creation here, but in parliament, over the past term, they were pressing the Liberals not for job creation, but for more cuts to our social programs. The NDP asked about jobs."

CAP candidate Olito's delivery carried his party's mes-

(more on page 3)

Don't forget the Canadian Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic tomorrow, Tuesday, May 27 at the Legion Hall in Haliburton 1:30 - 7 p.m.

Blood is urgently needed in hospitals in Ontario and organizers have set a target of 240 donations. All blood types are needed, especially group O.

Healthy individuals between the ages of 17 and 70 are urged to attend. Donors are reminded to bring valid identification.

This is the first of two clinics which will be held in the county this year. The second is scheduled for July 22. It is hoped that by holding two clinics this summer the crowding and lengthy lines which occurred at the single clinic last year will be avoided.

Residents will meet with TSW chief engineer

Gull riverside residents upset with the water that has been lapping at their doorsteps will get a chance to speak to the man in charge.

Trent-Severn waterway chief engineer Bruce Kitchen will be present at a meeting Wednesday, May 28 in the committee room at the municipal building.

Kitchen was invited by the residents, who have been coping with abnormally high water levels. The Gull River overflowed its banks earlier this month flooding roads on both sides of the waterway — North Water and Anson streets — resulting in the closure of North Water for a few days. Basement sump pumps went into overtime, and yards along Anson street were submerged for days, forcing some residents to wear waders merely to leave the house.

Kitchen told *The Times* last week the high water levels were due to the odd weather conditions — particularly a surge in rainfall before the snowmelt was over.

"Near the end of April," said Kitchen, "and into May it turned very wet, and the last of the

(more on page 3)

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